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Item 3 of the provisional agenda*
Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development

Statement submitted by Caritas Internationalis (International Confederation of Catholic Charities), the International Council of Women, Soroptimist International and Zonta International, non-governmental organizations in general consultative status with the Economic and Social Council; Associated Country Women of the World, the Foundation for the Rights of the Family, the International Catholic Child Bureau, the International Confederation of Christian Family Movements, the International Council of Jewish Women, the International Council of Psychologists, the International Council on Alcohol and Addictions, the International Federation for Family Development, the International Federation for Home Economics, the International Federation of University Women, the International Kolping Society, the Italian Centre of Solidarity, New Humanity, Pax Romana (International Catholic Movement for International and Cultural Affairs) (International Movement of Catholic Students), SOS — Kinderdorf International, the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts and the World Movement of Mothers, non-governmental organizations in special consultative status with the Council; and the European Union of Women and the International Association of Charities, non-governmental organizations on the Roster of the Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31 of 25 July 1996.

* * *

We, the signatory international non-governmental organizations listed above, in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council,

Recalling Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/7 of 22 July 1999, entitled Follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the future role of the Commission for Social Development, regret the low profile accorded to family issues in the follow-up to the World Summit for Social Development and the work of the Commission for Social Development,

Believe that in assessing the implementation of the commitments of the World Summit for Social

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Development a more positive and innovative approach should be adopted in relation to the recommendations pertaining to the family,

Maintain that instead of overburdening the valuable resource, the family and its functioning, often under difficult circumstances, for the benefit of both the individual and society, should be supported and strengthened. The many faceted roles of families should be recognized, taken into consideration and facilitated in the interest of humankind,

Are of the opinion that none of the commitments, be it the eradication of poverty, achieving social integration, equality between women and men or providing efficient social services can be met without recognizing families as the first respondents,

We, therefore,

1. Request that urgent attention be accorded to the implementation of the family-specific recommendations as addressed and incorporated in the Copenhagen Declaration and the Programme of Action adopted by the World Summit for Social Development;

2. Recommend strongly that, in designing the next multi-year programme of work of the Commission for Social Development, due consideration be given to family issues;

3. Recommend further that, in implementing General Assembly resolution 54/125 of 17 December 1999, Follow-up to the International Year of the Family, a review of the global situation of the family should be undertaken in 2004;

4. Urge that appropriate ways and means be sought to observe the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in close cooperation with civil society.